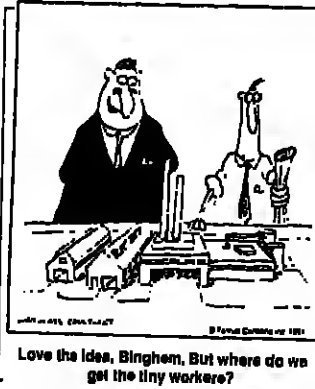


THE STAR'S

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Love the idea, Bingham. But where do we get the tiny workers?

Pirates under siege:

Jordan takes a stand with new copyright law

BOTH THE Parliament and Senate passed a law some three months ago regarding the rights of the author which went into effect on April 16. By passing the copyright law, Jordan has become the second Arab country to take a stand on the issue of copyright after Saudi Arabia, whose law also includes the protection of the rights of the author.

In the computer field. Thus, the law represents a big step forward in the fight against computer piracy.

The real importance of all this is that it will promote software development on the local scene. Software development has never been an encouraging enterprise because developers never guaranteed the right by law to prevent anybody else from using their productions.

Now that piracy is illegal, anybody willing to invest in the Jordanian computer sector should be able to invest his money with faith, knowing that there is money to be made in this field. The ridiculous situation formerly

faced by developers was, after spending thousands of dinars on developing a software, finding out someone out there was copying it and selling each copy for a few dinars.

According to the new law, the punishment for pirating software will be three months imprisonment and a fine of no less than JD 500 and no more than JD 1000 (\$735-\$1470), or one of these two punishments.

Several Jordanian computer companies have recently acquired official dealerships and licenses from some of the biggest hardware and software manufacturers in the world, who demanded as a result that these companies refrain from copying software for their clients. Certain little shops currently sell pirated software at rather low prices and actually advertise this fact openly in the local papers.

So what will the results be of this new law? Well, for one thing, those who used to benefit previ-

ously from using cheap or even free software will have to start saving their dinars. Major companies will move towards allocating a considerable amount of their resources to buying original copies of a program, while these little shops will be closed down.

The law will provide protection for programs developed by local and foreign developers published in Jordan and programs by Jordanian developers published outside. The protection starts with the publication of the software and ends 15 years after the death of the author. Of course, such programs should be registered and categorized with an official authority.

But there is a general agreement that such a law will probably have no effect on small computer users like students, home users or even little companies and no major changes are apparent so far. The only law in Jordan of the sort is the Ottoman law which has been in effect ever since 1911. Jordan has been acting in accordance with a pan Arab agreement regarding the rights of the author signed in 1987, which did not mention computer programs or electronic releases.

It remains to be seen if the law will really change the situation. Three months into effect, it has not done much but the local computer sector is confident that courts might be seeing cases soon. Let's wait and see.

is quite difficult to use.

"HyperCard" is basically a software tool that enables you to do more with your computer. The idea is to use "stacks" to perform different things. For example, you could use a stack to manage your accounts, to keep and continuously update your telephone directory or play music from a compact disc.

"Quick Start with HyperCard" is the kind of book that takes all of these things into consideration. Published by Arab Scientific Publishers based in Beirut, it presents the reader with the necessary information coupled with good presentation and reasonable

Arabic language. For new entrants into the Mac world, the book offers a clear step-by-step manual to using "HyperCard." If you're acquainted with the Macintosh then it should give you an in-depth look at the potential and ability of the program.

The book itself is spread out across 373 pages, following a rather relaxing system of presentation in which each topic is discussed on facing pages with the aid of diagrams. It reads like a map, enabling the reader to start anywhere and to understand relations between the different functions and abilities of the program. "Quick Start with HyperCard"

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

The struggle

IF YOU'VE been watching TV recently during the evening, you've probably seen the Egyptian soap opera called "Struggle" which involves a group of five young computer programmers who work in a room which looks darker than a cave and who fight and plot against one another. An employer needs to put together a team of bright computer programmers and narrows it down to these five whose abilities are to be tested by writing a certain program. There are different plots but the one that stands out is that only four of them will eventually work for this man which means that one of them should leave. Keeping with the spirit of times, they use all sorts of computer weapons and sabotage including viruses which are presented as a set of totally vague mathematical equations on a piece of paper which really does not look like it can be made into a program!

This is only the beginning of a bunch of mistakes and wrong facts. When computer people say that they would like their computers in the office to talk together by linking them up, they don't mean that the computers actually marmur and hum while executing the function of communication. In one episode, a user sent some code to the other to destroy his program and the computer actually was bleeping and producing sounds as the data crept into the computer!

Another striking mistake is that the data that appears on screen during the episodes has nothing to do whatsoever with the function the computer is supposed to be performing. When the programmer is supposedly working on his program and concentrating on solving a problem with his code the screen shows a directory of the files on the disc! Even worse, messages like "insert disc" appear on screen while the programmer is typing!

Maybe computers seem intelligent enough to make decisions once fed with the necessary information and maybe the producers were aiming to show the effect computers can have on human relationships, but actually showing a scene in which a female programmer asks the computer's opinion on whether or not she should stay with her boyfriend by inputting his advantages and disadvantages is really ridiculous! So what happened? The computer blessed this digital relationship made in Silicon Valley and destined to last as long as the power supply remains on.

Viewers love it, basically because those who watch it know as much about computers as the ones who wrote it. However, it is good to see that drama producers are starting to pay attention to computer related topics. Still, some argue that the only reason for this is because they're running out of love stories to incorporate in a drama.

You don't need to be an experienced drama critic or a computer expert to see that a soap opera is full of these mistakes.

The drama spreads misconceptions and unclear ideas about the mighty beast they call "the computer". It is a reflection of the ideas and facts that people think and believe in regarding computers and reinforces those incorrect ideas. Such a drama should have improved the ideas the public have rather than lead them to believe that this machine really is an impossible-to-understand "alien" capable of thinking by itself and running the lives of human beings who use it! Anyway, I'd better finish this column before my computer punches me in the face. You know, it makes you wonder.



starts off with an introduction about the program's importance and about the best way to use the book. Then there is an explanation on how HyperCard works — setting it up and opening it up to deal with its major advantages. The language used in the book is easy to understand and presents most technical terms in Arabic when discussing them in Arabic. This book is a good investment for any Macintosh user interested in using "HyperCard" successfully. It has not been officially priced yet in Jordan, but it should cost something around JD 3.5, and can be found at any library which stocks books published by the Arab Scientific Publishers. Keep a look out for other Arabic computer books for the Macintosh, amongst others.

Z.N.

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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All ready for the next peace round?

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JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

Government goes into the oil business

The government will set up a national oil company to carry out oil exploration projects throughout the Kingdom along with foreign oil companies. The proposed national company will be a spin-off of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), which is now responsible for such projects. Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr Ali Abu Ragheb, told *Al Rai* newspaper that geological surveys point to the existence of oil finds in the Jordan Valley area. But he added that production costs are extremely high because salt layers may be as thick as six meters, requiring specialized purification technology.

Jordan currently consumes about 3.3 million tons annually at a cost equal to 11 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP). Mr Abu Ragheb said there are good oil prospects in Risha along the Jordan-Iraq border and Siqan, which lies near the border

with Saudi Arabia. He added that despite previous failures to locate oil fields, foreign companies from Korea and Spain are negotiating for concessions. An American company is conducting surveys of the Wadi Rum area, while the NRA will continue exploration works in Risha and a 2000 square kilometer area throughout the kingdom.

The truth about our fruit

Jordan is eyeing former East European markets as a possible outlet for its huge surplus of agricultural produce. Dr Salem Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Corp. (AMC), is working with Jordanian exporters to open Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary to Jordanian fruit and vegetables. One possibility is to load meat-laden aircraft coming from these countries with agricultural produce. A meeting between meat importers and farm produce exporters will be arranged by AMC to tackle this

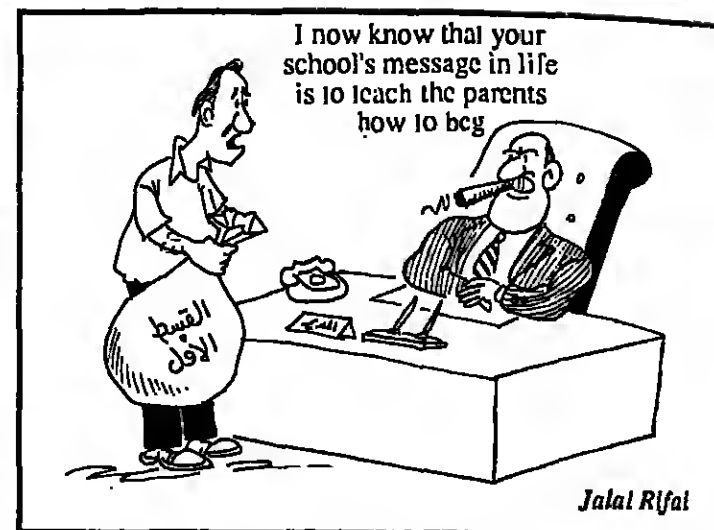
possibility.

Dr Lawzi told *Sawt Al Shaab* newspaper last week that Jordan's agricultural exports in June reached 63.4 thousand tons at a market value of JD 7.88 million, most of which were fresh vegetables. Saudi Arabia remained Jordan's largest client, importing JD 4 million worth of fruit and vegetables in June alone. Only one per cent of all farm produce exports went to Europe. The United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Iraq ranked directly after Saudi Arabia as the main importers of Jordanian produce.

Meanwhile, Jordanian farmers see no close end to their tomato ordeal. Prices have plummeted because of overproduction and tomato farmers have left their crops to rot rather than sell it at depressed prices.

Newspapers out of print

Jordanian newspapers may not appear after 2 August if a ship carrying 1500 tons of newspaper



Jalal Rifai

print is turned back by Allied navy warships at the entrance of Aqaba. The two largest dailies, *Ad Dustour* and *Al Rai*, are running out of stock and may have to cut down on the size of their papers to ration newspaper print. The vessel, *Proso*, was supposed to dock in Aqaba 1 July, but it was reportedly intercepted by an Australian warship near Tiran and ordered to sail to another port. The ship sailed to Hudeida, Yemen, and then to Dubai, where its Jordan-bound cargo was loaded on another ship, *Pioneer Litv*.

Newspaper publishers complained to the minister of information, and Foreign Minister Dr Kamel Abu Jaber called in the Australian ambassador (it was first thought that the US Navy had made the interception) and protested the action.

Meanwhile, newspapers are hunting for newspaper print, at any price, from Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, but with little success.

The *Pioneer Litv* is now expected to reach Aqaba on 30 July. If it is allowed into the port, newspaper publishers will breathe freely again, but if the ship is delayed or ordered back, newspapers will have serious problems and will have to take drastic measures, such as printing out a four-page paper until the crisis blows over.

Now it's the turn of the press law

The Lower House is expected to start discussions regarding the Press and Publications draft law, which will be referred to by its legal committee next week. Like the Parties Law, the draft law on the press will attract controversy, since it deals with basic issues pertaining to democracy such as freedom of expression, the responsibility of the press and penalties.

Political parties are expected to take the issue of the press in Jordan and its future under democracy to great lengths, raising such points as the government role as a regulator, lifting all barriers to press freedom and limiting the government's ability to sanction the press.

Ironically, many of the deputies are in support of greater government control of the press, but with clear lines drawn between that which constitutes the domain of the reporter and that of privacy, national security and social responsibility.

When the law is passed the door will be opened to 100 new licenses including newspapers and magazines.

Critics of the draft law say it is more of a penal code against journalists than a document regulating the work of the press in Jordan. *Al Uquq* Chief Editor Mr Tarq Masarrah told *Ad Dus-*

tour newspaper that the law contains words like "freedom and national responsibility" which are difficult to define. Mr Masarrah is against any government or semi-government ownership of any Jordanian publication, as mentioned in article 20 of the draft law. He also called for revising article 42, paragraph 7, which prohibits any insult of the heads of states of "Arab or Muslim or friendly" notions.

Minister of Information, Mr Mahmoud El Sherif, commented on the draft law by saying that while journalists want a law that will guarantee them the maximum level of free expression and provide them with immunities and access to information, he believes in calculated progress and not leaping — which may lead to unforeseen dangers. He reminded journalists that for each gain in press freedom there has to be an equal increase in responsibility.

Meanwhile, a number of journalists called on the government and the Lower House to begin debating a draft law for the Press Association. They said Jordanian journalists have no privileges that entitle them to an honorable life, such as pensions, housing and other exemptions. "Most of us are experts in accumulating debts," said *Ad Dustour* reporter Mr Ahmad Al Hushan.

Unemployment: Up or down?

A study by Mrs Tamam Al Ghul from the Ministry of Trade and Industry concluded that the Gulf Crisis and the return of thousands of Jordanian expatriates to the Kingdom has exacerbated the unemployment problem in Jordan, which she estimated at being 18 per cent of the work force. But she added that the rate of unemployment among returnees was 55 per cent by the end of 1991, down from 83 per cent in April 1991. She estimated the losses to the economy as a result of the crisis as being JD 1108 million in 1990 and JD 2264 million in 1991.

But the study found that commercial banks deposits by the private sector jumped from JD 1556 million in 1990 to JD 2557 million by the end of 1991, an increase of 30 per cent. Remittances by Jordanian expatriates in 1991 leaped to JD 795 million, compared to only JD 406 million in 1990. But the study warned that this increase was not to be repeated, since most expatriates have returned to Jordan to stay.

A more optimistic note was sounded by Minister of Labor Mr Abdel Karim Kabariti this week, when he told *Reuters* that the unemployment rate has dropped to 14 per cent this year. He said the number of job seekers registered with the ministry has dropped from 127,000 last year to below 100,000.

Baker on last Middle East tour

Parties express hope to reach peace soon

By a Star Staff Writer

US SECRETARY of State James Baker is back in the Middle East this week after nine months of absence, and the architect of the first direct Arab-Israeli peace talks in decades appears to mean real business.

The United States has a renewed interest in activating the stalemated peace process, observers of Baker's current shuttle in the region say. They agree, however, that goodwill accounts only partly for America's willingness to abandon the marginal role it has recently assumed in the talks.

A new American foreign policy achievement could turn in very handy for President George Bush in his troubled bid for a second term in the White House.

The peace process will be seen by the American public as one of President Bush's major foreign policy triumphs, just like the Gulf War, says one US correspondent travelling with Mr Baker. Still, this could be Mr Baker's last visit to this region as foreign minister since he is slated to become Bush's reelection campaign manager.

With his ratings in recent opinion polls dramatically below that of his competitor Democrat Bill Clinton, Bush might call on his old Texan friend for rescue.

Mr Baker's visit to Israel has put the US-Israeli relations back on track after a long chill. Jewish voters, who have been turning to Clinton's side, will clearly have American-Israeli relations on the back of their minds when they enter the voting booths in November. Bush is certain not to have forgotten that.

The Labor-led government of Yitzhak Rabin had made it easy for Bush to mend fences with America's old ally. It had put forward a number of proposals towards achieving self-government for the Palestinians and had taken action to halt the building of new settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

But, Mr Baker made it clear that the United States does not agree with Mr Rabin's distinction between political and security settlements.

During his meeting with Palestinian figures in Jerusalem, Mr Baker was handed a six point letter which called on the US not to improve its relations with Israel at the expense of the Palestinians. The Palestinians expressed their eagerness to resume negotiations with the Israelis as early as possible, but it was not clear when or where the next round of negotiations will take place.

Mr Baker said in Amman that the US was ready to host the next meeting in Washington.

Mr Rabin's main concern during Mr Baker's visit was to make sure that the Bush administration will release the \$10 billion loan guarantees Israel needs. While Mr Baker did not commit his government to an immediate action on this matter, observers believe the United States will reciprocate to Israel's "suspension" of settlements activities. President Bush is expected to announce this when he meets with Mr Rabin in Washington early next month.

In Jordan one Jordanian official told *The Star* that "US-Jordanian relations have never been better" and that the two sides see eye to eye on almost all issues. He hinted that Mr Baker may have carried

proposals from the Rabin government regarding certain issues to be discussed in the next round of talks.

During a press conference on Tuesday, King Hussein appeared optimistic about the prospects of the next rounds of negotiations and said an historic opportunity is now available to make a settlement for a peace between the Arabs and Israel.

This excitement over the prospects of peace was also apparent in Egypt's reception of Mr Rabin on Tuesday where he was treated as a head of state. But, while Mr Rabin mentioned UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as a framework for negotiations, he made no reference to the principle of land for peace.

During his meeting with Syria's President Hafez Assad on Wednesday, Mr Baker is said to have conveyed to the Syrians Israeli ideas about the future of the Golan Heights and other proposals concerning the next round of negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Before setting out on his visit to the area, Mr Baker said he wanted to "get the ball rolling again" in the peace process. Many believe he got what he had come for. But only when the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict engage in another round of negotiations will it become clear if Baker injected enough momentum into the process and if the ball will roll enough to make the coming round of talks a decisive one.

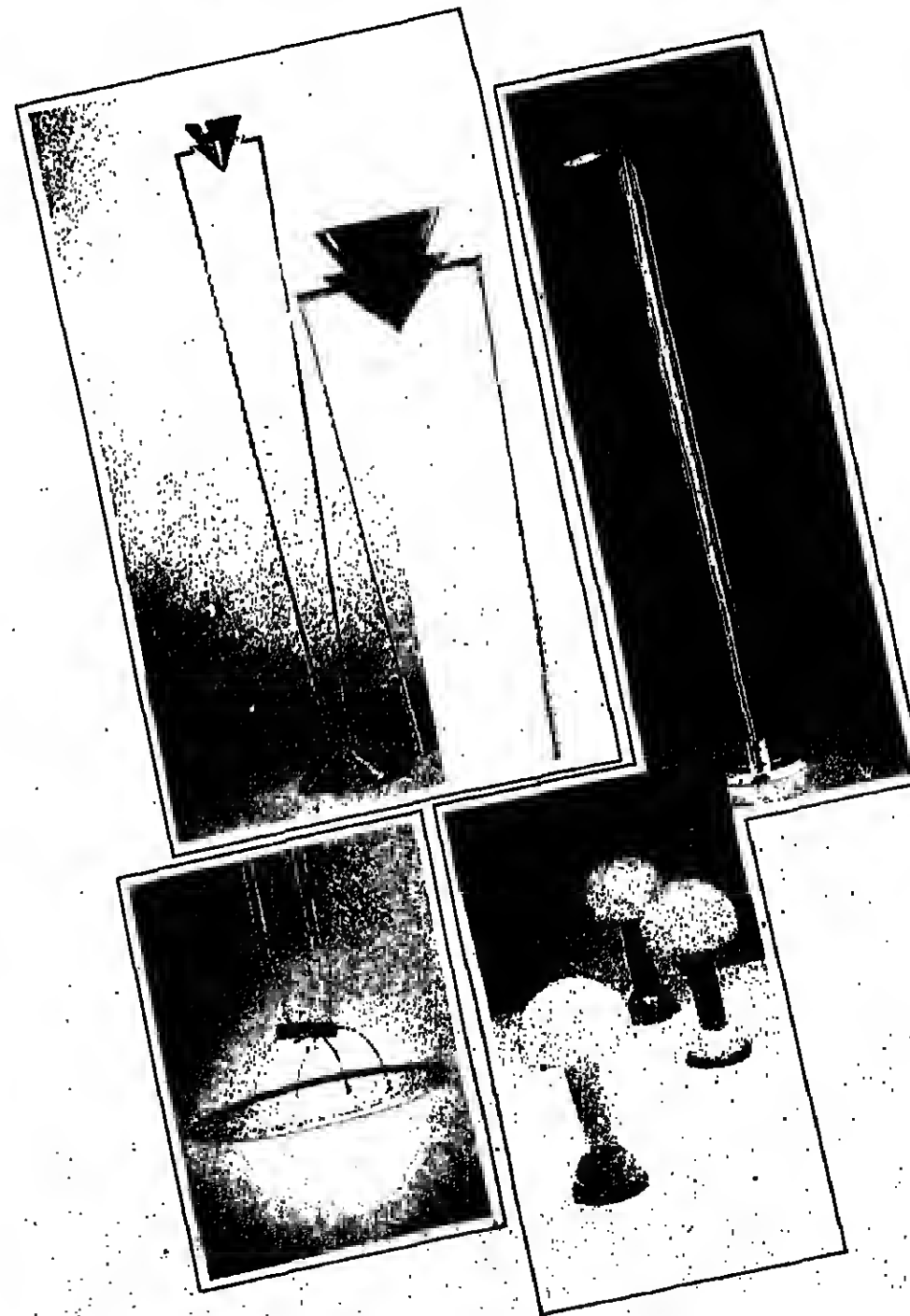


King Hussein and Mr Baker during their press conference on Tuesday



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Saving Somalian refugees:

Jordan's generosity 'sets example' to West

By Kate Daniels
Star Staff Writer

JORDAN CAME to the aid this week of thousands of desperate Somalians who have been forced to flee their country fearing famine and fratricidal killing. At the request of His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, 16 tons of foodstuffs, medical supplies and hygiene equipment were despatched from Jordan to the southern coast of Yemen, where 50,000 Somalians have accumulated over the last few months.

The royal decree, which insist-

ed that relief supplies such as rice, oil, milk powder and pharmaceuticals be sent to the refugees, was implemented by the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), Jordan's foremost institution dealing with international famine and disaster relief.

Funded purely by contributions, the JHCO succeeded in coordinating a charity "hotline" through a television appeal urging citizens to offer donations. Further campaigning secured considerable funding from the private sector, while coordination with Jordan's Ministry of Health

provided a supply of carefully-chosen medicines.

The relief supplies will be distributed around the port of Aden, where a steady exodus of Somalian fugitives has been flowing since May this year. The shanty town of Bassatine, close to the former South Yemen capital, now has an overspill of almost 15,000 refugees, while in Medinat Ash-Sha'b, thousands more escapees have amassed in droves, seeking shelter, food and medical treatment.

JHCO Secretary General, Dr Abdul Salam Al Ahbadi, described the air-lift of supplies to

Yemen as a "humanitarian and religious mission," adding that the JHCO and its collaborators aim to adapt an official relief program, with the intention of sending aid and materials to war-torn Somalia itself.

"This will come stage by stage," he said. "There are difficulties in sending direct relief because of a lack of communications and distribution problems. Such problems include the theft of foodstuffs at the hands of Somali bandits. Fears of similar problems in Yemen have prompted the JHCO to send three Jordanians to monitor the distribution

of relief supplies, and a television camera crew to document their activities.

The Somalia appeal is not the first of the JHCO's relief projects; so far it has responded to emergency cases in Sudan and Bangladesh, while its future plans include sending relief shipments to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the republic of Chechen-Ingush. "We respond in severe cases — when our own circumstances seem better," said Dr Ahbadi. "Jordan is not a rich country, but when we see a starving Somalian child trying to eat stones, we try to do our duty and help our brothers."

Describing Jordan as "a poor country" with its own political problems, Dr Ahbadi added that its response to the Somalian tragedy is setting "an example" to other, richer nations. "While thousands are dying daily in Mogadishu, Jordan is doing its best to help," he said. "We deliver all that we can — but no more. So the question must be asked: Why haven't the richer countries responded?"

Humanitarian principles aside, Dr Ahbadi believes that the role played by the JHCO serves to raise public morale, to improve Jordan's relations and to contribute practically towards alleviating world problems. He voiced particular pride in the development projects which the organization has so far implemented.

Perhaps the most successful of such projects was arranged after a visit by Crown Prince Hassan, the JHCO's High Councillor, to the Sudanese town of Al Kas. With his prompting, an operation was established between 1985 and 1990, where JHCO experts and collaborators tackled disease, drought and famine.

"We renovated the local hospital, and every two months sent a medical team with equipment and expertise," said Dr Ahbadi. Jordanian experts also implemented an electricity plant and water distribution system that soon served the entire city. "Development projects are the correct step towards dealing with the problems of world poverty," said Dr Ahbadi.

Both the Crown Prince and His Majesty are behind the latest JHCO venture, being the sending of relief supplies to the besieged citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The logistics of the mission are under discussion with United Nations officials, while at the same time, arrangements are being made to repatriate a number of Jordanian citizens still living in the conflict area.

Although the JHCO does not offer local programs serving Jordanian citizens, it coordinates with outside benefactors who contribute to national causes, overseeing the distribution of aid to Jordan's needy through its ministries. Dr Ahbadi praised Jordan's generous citizens, remarking that although the organization serves the poverty-stricken in other countries, this has not stopped Jordanians from digging deep into their pockets. "Jordanians are people who are prepared to take even from their own food to help those in a bad situation," he said.



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Discovery beyond the pyramids

By Margaret Crockett

LONDON — DISCOVERIES on the plains of the River Nile seem inexhaustible. While the finds so far are being catalogued, analyzed and exhibited, there still remains a fascination for what lies behind and beyond the pyramids which few archaeologists can resist.

While the search continues to unearth the treasures and grandeur of the tombs known to be buried in the Egyptian sands, one of the earliest finds, the tomb of Tutankhamun, still challenges the academic and archaeological communities of the world.

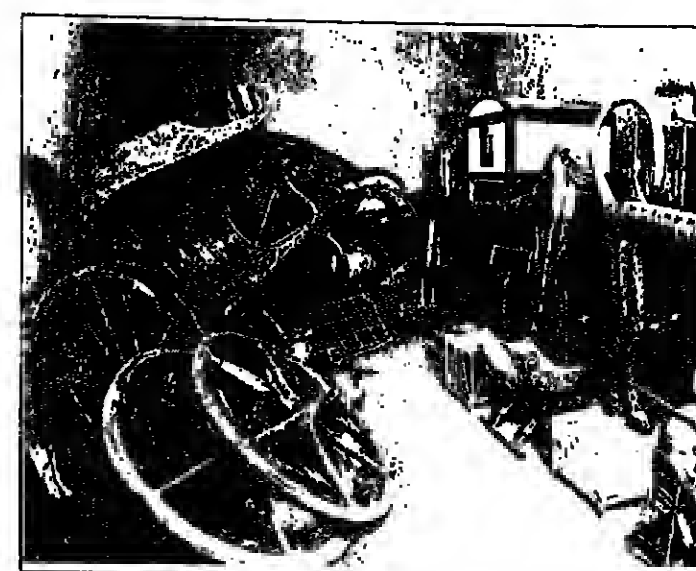
In 1922 the Earl of Carnarvon and Howard Carter led the excavation team which discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt. After years of digging in the area, with few returns, their diligence paid off and they achieved their ultimate objective — and world-wide fame.

Dr Nicholas Reeves, a member of the department of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum in London and author of *Valley of the Kings: The Decline of a Royal Necropolis*, has turned his attention to this most famous of discoveries. The Decline of a Royal Necropolis has turned his attention to this most famous of discoveries.

The Complete Tutankhamun is very aptly titled. A comprehensive and engrossing book, it charts the exciting story of the exhumation of the youth reborn as Egypt's most famous son.

The breakthrough was momentous. "Here before them, crammed in from floor to ceiling, barely lit by the excavator's flickering light, lay a breathtaking array of funerary furniture and ritual figures, unlooted for on eternity and seemingly in perfect condition; and everywhere the glint of gold," reports Dr Reeves. Tutankhamun became a household name overnight. No archaeological find before or since has so captured the public imagination, thanks in great part to the extensive coverage by the press, he adds.

Inside the rooms that made up the tomb, quite apart from the beautifully gilded and inlaid burial coffins one inside the other, they found jewels, gilded figures, furniture, beads, boxes, stools, chariots, bows, arrows, shoes,



Two of Tutankhamun's ritual couches and a tangle of chariot parts, found in the southern end of the Antechamber

gloves, underwear, food provisions and many other artifacts. Tutankhamun's tomb, explains the author, contained everything, both ritual and personal, an Egyptian king might require for a happy and contented existence in the afterworld.

Despite the richness of his burial, Dr Reeves maintains that Tutankhamun remains an enigmatic figure. He came to the Egyptian throne at the age of about nine, in approximately 1333 BC and died when he was about 18 years old. It is thought that he was killed by a blow to the skull.

Just prior to the opening up of the tomb, a well-known novelist of the day had warned that the most dire punishment follows any rash intruder into a sealed tomb. Rumor was rife, relates the author. "On the day the tomb was opened, Carter's pet canary was swallowed by a cobra — the cobra being the very serpent on Pharaoh's brow which spits fire at his enemies; at the precise moment of Carnarvon's death (in 1923), it was said, the lights of Cairo inexplicably went out; while at the same time, in England, Carnarvon's three-legged terrier, Susie, howled and dropped dead."

The publicity added to the notoriety of Tutankhamun, and death by association fuelled rumors of a curse. But the author dryly remarks that it cannot be denied that Death was peculiarly

selective in his choice of victims, and surprisingly long in coming for those who were perhaps closest to the work.

It is because of its relatively intact state that the tomb of Tutankhamun spans the millennia with peculiar ease, and excites all of the senses in a way in which no other archaeological find before or since has done, avers Dr Reeves. He opines that we see a boy like any other, packed off to the next world as if to boarding school, accompanied by ample supplies of clean linen, hamper of his favorite foods, his prized possessions, and a lock of his beloved grandmother's hair. "Yet in this, his final manifestation, Tutankhamun was no longer the malleable child: He had grown into a wilful adolescent, his father's son, eager to assert himself. And he was probably murdered for it."

"Tutankhamun," he concludes, "still lies within his outermost coffin in the tomb he has occupied for more than 3,300 years — a span of time which has seen the rise and fall of Athens and Rome, the birth and crucifixion of Christ, the coming of Islam, the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution. After so many centuries, Pharaoh's sad presence still pervades the sepulchre and the objects from it; and the fascination of this presence, as much as the lure of gold, continues to draw to him and his treasures millions of visitors every year."



Tutankhamun's gold death mask

These visitors, by speaking Tutankhamun's name, cause him to live, as he so fervently wished, every minute of every day, around the vastness of a modern world he could never have imagined.

North of the Valley of Kings; just to the south of Cairo, is Saqqara — the name given to part of the most extensive city of the dead of the ancient world. The inhabitants of Memphis, which was founded in about 3150 BC, and remained the principal Egyptian city down to the end of dynastic times, were buried in the Saqqara cemeteries.

In what he describes as "unashamedly a detective story," Geoffrey T. Martin, Edwards Professor of Egyptology at the University of London, describes his long archaeological search in the area in *The Hidden Tombs of Memphis*. The book is mainly concerned with the results of 13 seasons of excavating carried out by a joint expedition of the Egypt Exploration Society (London) and the National Museum of Antiquities (Leiden). The Netherlands, which Professor Martin has been directing since its inception in 1975.

Explaining the "perennial fascination of Egyptology," Professor Martin says that most expeditions working in Egypt have specific scientific tasks to carry out or problems to attempt to resolve, whether they be historical, architectural, epigraphic, or

Santhropolgical. "The subject is not cut and dried, even after a century and a half of scholarly activity. Numerous questions need still to be asked, and many things, especially relating to daily life and economic and social history, await clarification or solution," he says.

With the "generous permission" of the Egyptian Antiquities authorities, the author decided to pinpoint, excavate and record the tomb of Maya, Tutankhamun's treasurer and one of the most influential men in the young king's government. Although, he says, the team 'missed' the tomb by only a few meters in 1975, it was eventually located in 1986 and excavated in 1988. Patient and systematic digging revealed other lesser tombs and their contents.

In ancient Egypt every official or any private citizen of means, had to provide himself with 'standard' pieces of funerary furniture, which included obvious items such as a coffin or sarcophagus in wood or stone, canopic jars for the viscera, *shawabt* (funerary) figurines, probably in a specially made box, a heart scarab, possibly in a pectoral, amuletic figures, food provisions in pottery vessels, drink, and ideally a copy of the Book of the Dead (as a guide to the hazards of the Underworld). Other objects placed in the tomb were mainly optional extras and might include objects used in daily life such as jewelry and pieces of domestic furniture, often battered and worn from use.

Nearly all the great tombs at Saqqara were entered and robbed in antiquity, but Professor Martin believes that there is still a wealth of material to find and assimilate.

After 13 years, the expedition has excavated only a small section of the necropolis. But the author enthuses: "It is not too much to say that a whole new area of research into Egyptian art has been opened up by much of the work of our joint expedition at Saqqara. Many of the reliefs we have found, particularly in the tombs of Hornefnef and Maya, are by any standard, masterpieces. All the material is closely datable and much of it is in a fine state of preservation with much original color still present."

Although this detective story is slowly yielding clues, there will be no conclusion for many, many years.

Academic File.

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Hungarian Islam sprouts again

Islam is undergoing a revival in Hungary, a country the Ottomans occupied only briefly when compared with their rule in the rest of eastern Europe.

By Sybil Bernier-Hart

LONDON — WITH the exact nature of the society that will replace its discredited communist infrastructure still unclear, Hungary is experiencing an Islamic revival, to the dismay of Christian revivalists and the delight of its closet Muslims.

For most of the post-war years, many Hungarian Muslims have led double lives — outwardly communist and yet inwardly believing and, in certain cases, practicing Islam in the privacy of their homes. The end of the Cold War brought about liberalization which emboldened Muslims to speak their minds and to start public worship.

The road to the revival of Islamic worship and rituals has been fraught with social risks. "Our biggest problem has been the image problem — not our image but the image of Muslims in Hungary," says Sheikh Abdel Rahman Mihally, a native Hungarian and president of the board of the Hungarian Islamic Society based in Budapest.

"In the media and public consciousness, the Muslims' name is always being associated with terrorism and violence."

As in the rest of liberated eastern Europe, the relaxation of the draconian communist laws against religion and society has been synonymous with the rise of racism and open discrimination against minorities and foreigners.

"The society believes that its primary role is to remove the wall of misunderstanding be-

tween Muslims and other Hungarian people," said Sheikh Mihally. "For this reason it has offered all offers of aid with strings. It keeps a safe distance from all those who use Islam in their slogans while their lives and transactions remain patently anti-Islamic."

The society has gone about the business of cultural revival in a pragmatic fashion. It has its own trailing house, committed to increased trade with the Islamic countries, and offers Hungarian Muslims work rather than indoctrination. "There is no place better than the workplace to influence the people," said Sheikh Mihally. "We live in a busy part of the world, people cannot be approached in their free time, so the best way to reach them is to offer them the opportunity to work in an Islamic environment."

The society aims to create work for the growing number of Hungarians re-embracing their original faith as a first step towards regenerating an Islamic environment in the country. Mihally said mosques, cultural centers and other institutions would



Hungarian Muslims need no longer lead 'double lives.'

have to be built to cope with the demands of the faithful.

One of the most ambitious projects, spearheaded by Géza Fehérvári, former professor of Islamic art and archaeology at the University of London, calls for the construction of an Islamic center with international founding in Buda.

Although most of the Muslims in Hungary are of native stock, rightists have been quick to point out, first, the historical link between Muslims and the Ottoman colonizers and, second, between Muslim causes and international terrorism.

The snide attacks on Muslims have if anything steeled Hungari-

an Muslims against prejudice. The Hungarian Islamic Society, registered since August 1988, has been in the forefront of a movement for giving Muslims economic and social support and helping them towards cultural and religious revival. In the four years of its activity it has seen its membership grow from only three to 400. But the society's leaders estimate that the actual number of Muslims "at various stages of belief and practice" after nearly half a century of communism runs into tens of thousands.

The Ottoman Turks held sway in Hungary for about 150 years until the end of the 17th century.

a period shorter than in other parts of eastern Europe where they stayed until the end of the First World War. But Turkish influence permeates Hungarian language and culture. One of the reasons, of course, is that Hungarians share with Turks racial roots in Central Asia.

In an interview with the magazine Eastern Art Report, Professor Fehérvári said, "A lot of Ottoman monuments are now beautifully restored. A small museum in Pest bears most of the surviving Ottoman treasures, and we have set up a committee for building up the religious and cultural center."

He said the center would include a mosque, a museum, a library and the Budapest university's Turkish and Arabic institutes.

"Many young people brought up in an atheistic society are now returning to Islam," he said. "Islam is growing in Hungary. To these potential worshippers in the mosque you have to add at least another 10,000 Muslims: Arabs and other Muslims who are working or studying in Hungary. The center could answer the requirements of Hungarians and fellow Muslims alike."

Fehérvári and Sheikh Mihally recently attended a London ceremony where they presented a copy of the Quran, translated in Hungarian, to the International Center for Islamic Studies — Academic File.

Sybil Bernier-Hart is a writer and researcher based in London.

Bangladesh faces a Burmese flood

By Fernando Del Mundo

DHAKA, Bangladesh — As the monsoon season approaches, more than 240,000 Burmese refugees camped on the eastern border of Bangladesh are becoming apprehensive. The arrival of the monsoon rain and storms can only bring them misery on a massive scale. Bangladesh officials say that they are virtually helpless in the face of nature's unpredictability and scant resources.

Only about half of the refugees have managed to find shelter in camps along the border. As the constant flow of the homeless continues from across the border, officials fear the ratio of those with protection against the elements can only go down. The makeshift 'homes' made from uprooted trees, leaves or any scrap material risk being swept away when the rains begin.

A Bangladesh high commission official in London described the situation as being "desperate" for the refugees. Although international aid has relieved some of the enormous pressure on Dhaka, the unstoppable influx of men, women and children has meant that supplies will not be commensurate with the needs of the homeless.

Already, the conditions on the ground have reached critical levels. Water and sanitation facilities are inadequate. The refugees' plight is not eased by the fact that they have taken shelter in an area known for the highest incidence of malaria in Bangladesh. Evidence of measles has further compounded the problem. Dr. Mohamed Shahjahan, an area official, said the refugees faced further dangers from dysentery, diarrhoea and respiratory diseases.

It is, however, the threats from the vagaries of weather and the scarcity of resources within Bangladesh which seem to be the most potent of threats. In 1978, more than 220,000 Burmese refugees flooded into Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries. Some 10,000 of them, mostly children, died within six months because of scarce food supplies.

Bangla and international authorities are determined to forestall any repetition of that tragedy. Government, non-government organizations and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees have com-

bined efforts to secure the refugees against the unpredictable weather and ensure an even distribution of food. Two new camp sites currently being built could accommodate up to 50,000 people.

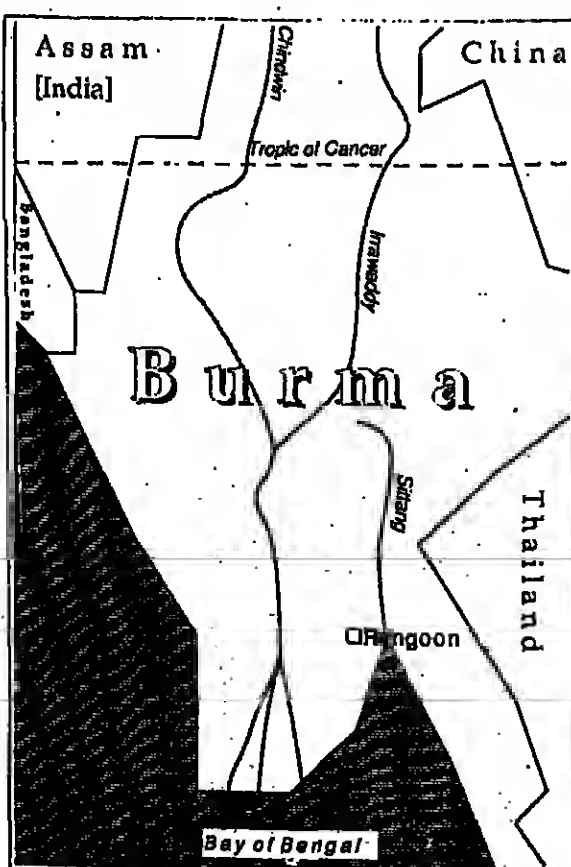
The problem of a Burmese influx into Bangladesh and indeed other neighbouring countries is endemic, but the new wave of arrivals started in early 1991 and rose to a new height last winter. Using ancient rowing boats, thousands of Burmese refugees crossed the river Naf to seek shelter in Bangladesh.

Many of the refugees, from the Rohingya Muslim community of Burma, complained of persecution, rape and forced labor. They pointed to a systematic campaign by the regime to force Rohingyas out of the country. The government denied the allegations and brushed the refugees' illegal immigrants whom, it said, it could not take back.

But the Rohingyas are Burmese, comprising some 1.4 million of the 2.2 million population of Arakan. Once an independent kingdom, Arakan was founded by Arab and Moorish merchants with strong trade links between

China and the rest of south Asia. A mountain spine separated Arakan from the Burmese heartland, highlighting the religious and geographical divide. Communal violence has flared occasionally between the majority Buddhist Burmese and the Muslims. But the conflict has never been at the same level as the civil war involving government troops and the guerrillas of the Christian-dominated Karen tribe. Some 70,000 Karens now live in camps in Thailand.

What makes the Rohingyas' plight more problematic for Bangladesh is the possibility, often voiced by Dhaka officials, that many of the Burmese may never wish to return home. With strong family links in the mountainous southeastern region of Bangladesh, many have found jobs or family support. This has added



implications for this impoverished country, and particularly the Chittagong region. The area where the refugees have converged has barely recovered from a monstrous cyclone that, only a year ago, killed more than 100,000 residents.

Fernando del Mundo is a Geneva-based editor of the UNHCR magazine, 'Refugees'.

Re-exploring the hills of Nagaland

A sensitive and in-depth study of the Nagas of northeastern India provides a greater understanding of the cultural beliefs and social practices of these hills people, whose view of the world extends far beyond the nudity and head-taking ceremonies for which they have become notorious.

By Mary Doyle

LONDON — THE Nagas of northeastern India, known as the 'Peoples of the Hills', appear to be unlike any other known Indian tribe and are very different from their neighbors, the Hindus of the plains. The geographical differences mirror the extent of how far apart these people are culturally.

Numbering over one million, the Nagas are scattered throughout the Indian state of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and neighboring Burma. Populating the hills and valleys, each group maintains a separate identity which complements their natural surroundings, giving them a cultural richness and versatility enjoyed by very few indigenous groups of the world today.

Like many peoples discovered, audited and eventually civilized, their fate was mapped out. *The Nagas: Hill Peoples of Northeast India*, relates their history before Indian independence in 1947, of their stern resistance to British rule and their efforts to hold onto their traditional practices while making concerted attempts to pursue a policy of economic and social modernization.

It has been difficult to discern the origins of the Nagas, as studies found many hundreds of tribes speaking a language with more than 30 tonal differentiations, quite apart from each other in social systems, ranging from egalitarian to autocratic and yet sharing the basic principle of ritual belief and customs. This strong interaction among people eventually invited economic and cultural integration, but it also made it difficult for anthropologists to decipher the Nagas' origins.

Although locked away in a corner of India with no access to the sea, the Nagas' facial features are strikingly similar to those of the Indians of South America or the peoples of Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. Many of their body adornments, textiles and ceramics are similar to those of South American Indians, while many of the textile designs are evocative of Aboriginal Dreamtime patterns. The vibrant yellows, reds and black in their ceremonial dress are derived from shell, enemy's teeth and hair and are similar to African body dress and textiles. The use of the human figure and head is predominant in Naga art.

The practice and belief in rituals forms an important part of everyday Naga life, but unfortunately has to a great extent contributed to the misconceptions outsiders have of these very down-to-earth and practical people. Contrary to the popular belief that individuals "wander around in a haze of mystical experience," the authors have during their research noted that "Most of Naga life is eminently practical. Ritual, however, offers the possibility of understanding the world and changing it."

control over their surroundings. Their approach to earthquakes, for example, helps them not only to understand the phenomenon but provides a team effort to remedy it. They believe that the earth shakes when a dead village chief makes his way to the land of the dead through strong creepers that obstruct his path. Collectively they take action to stop the tremors by calling out "Don't fall, don't fall," so that the earth may stay still.

Agriculture is the central aspect, affecting fertility, sex, death, and creative forces manifested in feasts, bodily decoration and the ritual of head-taking. The latter has been an intrinsic part of the Nagas' quest for wealth and status within clans and determined spiritual attainment. In that ritual, a Naga warrior would raid a village in order to find a slave whose head he would then offer as a gift to his bride. "Taking a head is the ultimate transformative action," note the authors. "By killing another person, a man transforms life into death, and the accompanying rituals transform the biological (natural) face of death into a social (cultural) object, that is a skull."

With the British intervention in Nagaland, head-taking was prohibited and the ritual substituted with payment to the elders of the village. Ornaments replaced the skull. In the event much of the Nagas' traditional life was lost with over exploitation of land, integration into a market economy, and the arrival of Christian missionaries. Post-colonial India left



Konyak villagers perform their ritual 'Great Dance' at the Spring Festival



A former 'Ang' or tribal chief of Sheangha

the Nagas torn between integration and independence.

Though family ties are closely knit with well-defined responsibilities and expectations, a Naga is first and foremost a member of the clan. Women observe strict but not restricting rules during pregnancy and men are expected to be present in adjoining rooms during the birth of their children.

Cutting the umbilical cord is in some clans the duty of the father. Children are incorporated into work gangs at a very early age and are expected to help with basic household and agricultural tasks. The 'social paternity' of a child is more important than the 'biological paternity' and a child belongs to the clan of the legal father no matter who the natural fa-

ther is understood to be. This provides a strong social bonding which gives the groups continuity and social and moral strength.

With some exceptions, most clans accept premarital sex although marriage is always encouraged with a member of a different group but always within a strict social framework.

Even in death the Nagas share a responsibility to their clan. For example, among the Konyaks the funeral ritual consists of removing the head, which is kept in a stone pot, and the skull is later painted with geometric designs during harvest festivals — making a link between taking fertility out of the earth (the harvest) and returning it (the deceased).

In the past four decades, the

Nagas have benefited in education and health and have learned to reinterpret their beliefs, enriching their history and identity.

The book offers a wealth of background through photographs of an extraordinary range of artefacts, from shrunken heads to ceramics, carvings, basketware, jewelry and textiles.

The Nagas: Hill Peoples of Northeast India, by Julian Jacobs with Sarah Harrison, Aulia Herle and Alan Macfarlane. Thames and Hudson. £28.355 pp. ISBN 0-500-97388-1.

Mary Doyle is a writer and researcher based in London.

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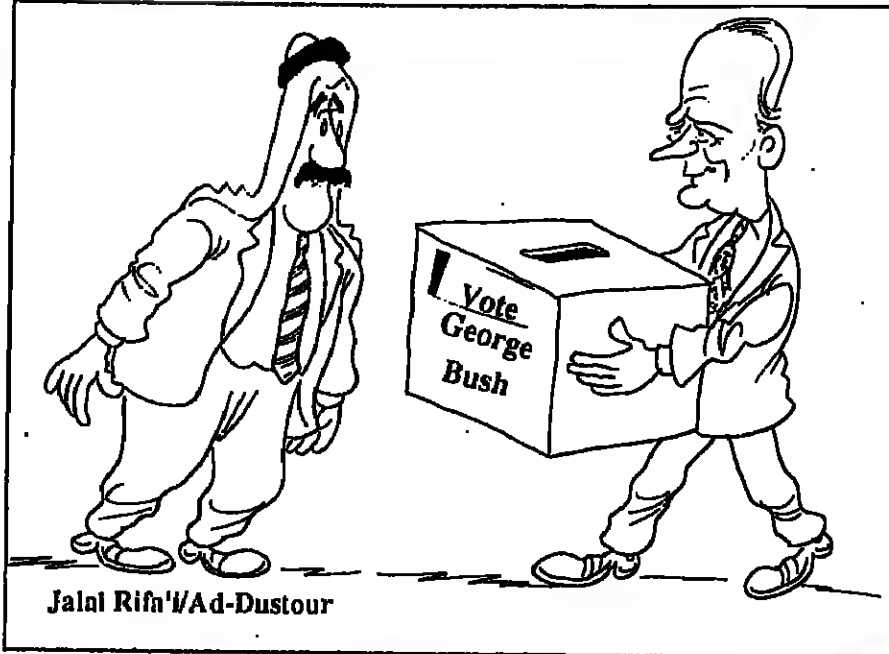
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Our Say....

Waiting for the next round

WITH THE optimism US Secretary of State Mr James Baker has spread during his latest tour of the region about the prospects of the Middle East peace process, everything appears set for a serious resumption of negotiations. The ingredients are all there: Arab and Israeli willingness to go into substance and international and US commitment in particular to Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as the framework for a comprehensive settlement, among other things.

The victory of the Labor Party of Israel and its allies in the June general elections was a necessary requirement for the negotiations' revival. Israel's new premier Mr Yitzhak Rabin has taken some important steps towards making the next round of talks fruitful and substantial. The US position on the suspension of all settlement activities in the occupied lands is commendable. It remains to be seen whether the Israelis will yield to international pressure to completely halt all colonization projects in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan.

But optimism and goodwill are not enough to turn this peace process into a means leading to a desirable end. The Arab parties are ready, and have been for some time, to put Israel's promises to the test. The next round, whether it convenes in Washington or Rome, must be different from previous meetings.

The Israelis must present workable ideas and convince the world that the change of government was an asset to peace. It is up to the Israelis to push the process forward. After all, it is Israel that has the land and is holding more than 1.5 million Palestinians hostage in their own homeland. It is Israel that has to submit to the rule of international law and it is the Israelis who will have to take courageous decisions regarding their future relations with their Arab neighbors.

On the Arab side, the coming phases should prove more strenuous and challenging than previous ones. The Arabs will be asked to make concessions and to accommodate numerous Israeli demands. While we have utmost confidence in the capacity and wisdom of our negotiating teams, we also warn of Israeli attempts to strike bilateral deals at the expense of other parties to the conflict. This entails unforeseen dangers that could thrust this region into further political and social disarray.

Dealing with Mr Rabin may prove trickier than dealing with his predecessor. The next negotiations will require the Arabs to respond to Israeli proposals with counter proposals that serve the cause of peace and do not lead negotiators astray. We also expect the United States to play a more active role in the negotiating process. As things stand now, one can see the negotiators reaching deadlocks and dead ends. It is the responsibility of the host to intervene in the spirit of an honest broker to free these deadlocks and open new paths.

The United Nations and the European Community must also be involved. For peace to survive it must be supported by the international community. There must be guarantees to safeguard the agreements and in the process of establishing peace there will have to be joint regional cooperation to develop this region of the world and to help its people become more independent and dependent on themselves.

We hope this spirit of optimism will last and we hope that goodwill will prevail. As much as the prospects of peace look bright today, the specter of war and deprivation is not very far behind. ■

Believers' bloody battle for power

By Sarah Helm

THERE IS one good thing about the recent violence by the Islamic fundamentalist movement in Gaza against rival factions from the Palestinian mainstream; it shows that the fundamentalists believe peace may be coming.

Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement in the occupied territories, appears to be jostling for power ahead of the proposed new autonomous authority in the occupied territories. The movement, which seeks to destroy Israel and create an Islamic State of Palestine, has always rejected the notion of Palestinian autonomy as a pally compromise. It has declared it would not participate in elections for autonomy because to do so would be to bow to Israel's terms.

Hamas has refused any involvement in the talks, accusing the negotiators from Fatah, the mainstream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization, of kowtowing to Israel and the West by talking about less than full statehood, even for an interim period.

As long as the prospect of peace remained remote and the PLO's achievements in the talks questionable, Hamas was content to snipe at the negotiators from the sidelines. It continued its armed attacks against Israeli targets, confident that its credibility with Palestinians could only increase with every failure notched up by PLO delegates in their talks with the enemy. Now the growth of Hamas' influence is threatened.

New Labor Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, is committed to Palestinian autonomy within a year. The PLO could, for the first time, make some political gains. If it does, Hamas fears Palestinians may begin to question the validity of the "rejectionist" cause.

Hamas is now saying it will participate in elections to the autonomous body — in order to fight for its aims from within the new power structure. The violence that has accompanied this change of policy appears to be a struggle for power on the streets. Hamas is showing Fatah and its supporters that autonomy will not mean the decline of the Islamic struggle.

The question is: How much support does Hamas have in the occupied territories and could it win power in the autonomy elections?

The Islamic movement has had influence in the occupied territories through the Muslim Brotherhood for several decades. Its activities have been encouraged at times by Israel as a counter to the PLO. The organization avoided military means to achieve its ends until the outbreak of the

Palestinian uprising in 1987, when the need for more active protest became apparent.

There was already evidence from the successes of an earlier breakaway Islamic group, Islamic Jihad, that military operations could bring wide support in the occupied territories.

The Muslim Brotherhood formed Hamas as a military wing in 1988 with the stated aim of "working to unfurl the banner of Allah over every centimeter of Palestine." Hamas received money from Muslim communities abroad and direct aid from Iran, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. It has very close ties with the powerful Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and Egypt, and close links with Muslim groups in Algeria and Sudan.

Hamas' relations with other Palestinian groups are more complex. It has always had close ties with pro-Syrian Palestinian groups which have also tended to reject compromise.

While sharing some of the same aims as the PLO, Hamas has always reserved the right to operate its own agenda, seeing the PLO as a largely secular organization. One of Hamas' founders, Dr Abdel Rentisi, recently attacked PLO leader Yasser Arafat for playing the West's game and talking to Israel. Dr Rentisi, a pediatrician, was released from jail in September after two and half years. He had been charged with founding Hamas and running its operations in Gaza.

During the *Intifada*, Hamas has had its own protest agenda, focusing on the fight against "corrupt morals." As disillusion spread about the ability of the Palestinian uprising to achieve any of its aims, many in the occupied territories turned to Islam for new direction.

Some experts say 50 per cent of the people in Gaza and 30 per cent of those in the West Bank support Hamas. The movement is less deeply entrenched in the West Bank, perhaps because conditions have never been quite so desperate and the people are less susceptible to the sizzle of fundamentalism. But here, too, Hamas has a strong hold, as proved by its successes in some of the recent chamber of commerce elections. The organization's appeal appears to lie in the connection it makes between proclaiming Islamic ideals alongside Palestinian nationalism.

Palestinian leaders hope the violence between PLO groups and Hamas can be localized, and peace negotiators are aware that inter-Palestinian violence will only be exploited by the Israeli right as proof that peace with the Arabs should be aborted. Meanwhile, some Israeli Arab-watchers are saying that all sides have underestimated the influence of Hamas and are now paying the price. ■

The Independent

Stand-off in Baghdad Iraq illustrates the nuclear dilemma

The now on-and-off United Nations inspection of Iraq's nuclear installations has revealed the discrepancies that exist elsewhere in the UN's supervision and control of global nuclear proliferation.

By Sajid Rizvi

LONDON — The wrangle over a United Nations scrutiny of suspect nuclear centers in Iraq has barred the gaping holes that exist in the UN's inspection blanket, which the international agency cannot hope to mend easily or soon.

As if the difficulties in getting nuclear nations to comply were not daunting enough already, the unraveling of the Soviet Union has shown that the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna has neither the teeth nor the clout to control nuclear proliferation on a gigantic scale that now seems inevitable.

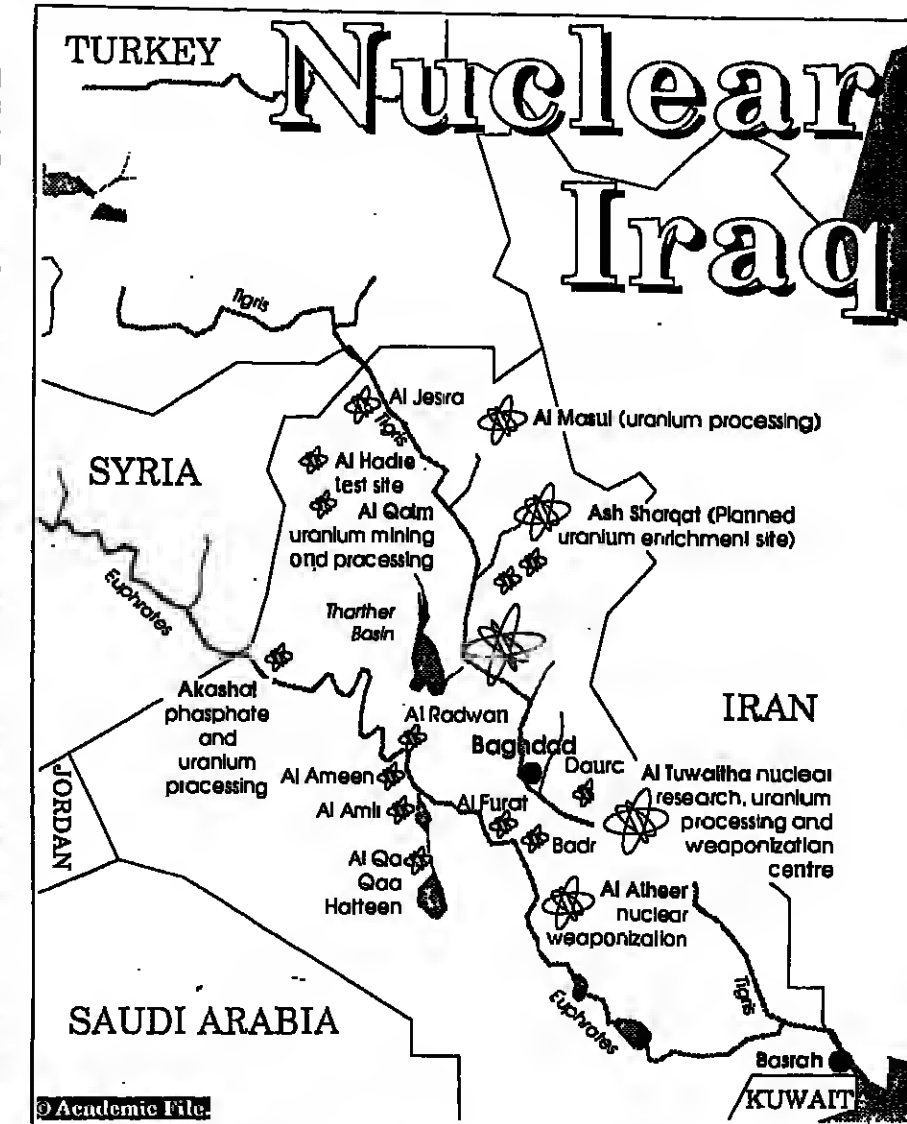
Nuclear technology and expertise is in a "glut." Too many unemployed physicists with CVs under their arm are roaming the international job market. The international controls on the movement of nuclear equipment and material are worn out or ineffective. The complacency triggered with the Cold War blowout is now so deep-set as to make any mention of nuclear proliferation sound screechingly alarmist.

The way major nuclear powers treat the UN's agencies to meet their own ends and not to strengthen them in the first place is little short of a joke. The IAEA's director general, Dr Hans Blix, in a mild reproach to the major nuclear powers, said the agency needed "more teeth" to deter violators of nuclear safeguard agreements, and one way it could be better empowered would be to share information.

"What we can learn from the lessons of Iraq is that the ability of the regular IAEA inspections... to uncover possible undeclared nuclear installations and material would increase drastically if the IAEA were to be routinely provided with relevant information available to member states, for example through satellites."

So far it appears that this information sharing has been selective. In Iraq, apparently, the IAEA teams have received the full benefit of western electronic and satellite surveillance, but what of other states with suspect installations? Until now the IAEA has been urging Israel to submit data about its nuclear installations, to no avail whatsoever.

The agency has also sought — unsuccessfully — information on other states



which have neither signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty nor submitted to international inspections. There are valid reasons for believing that major nuclear powers have better information on the violators than does the UN, but they are unlikely to share it — unless it suits their ends.

This policy may just rebound on the major nuclear powers. The breakup of the USSR has multiplied the number of states

with nuclear capability and pitted the Atomic Energy Agency against the harsh reality that it exists on the fringes of a rapidly expanding nuclear club.

Of all the states to emerge from the ruins of the USSR, only Russia is a signatory to the NPT, a document it inherited among hundreds of others. The less stable southern states constitute the great void in which the IAEA cannot hope to send even a tracer.

As a spokesperson in Vienna explains, "None of these states are IAEA members so we cannot be seen to be interfering in their affairs." There are some hopes of the Ukraine and Byelorussia submitting to inspections, though only just. Kazakhstan and other Central Asian powers, armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons, remain out of bounds for the agency.

But are the major powers equally in the dark? US Secretary of State James Baker III, who visited Central Asia recently, has been spearheading an American administration campaign to persuade the newly independent states, on pain of aid cuts, to conform to international safeguards.

This still does not give the IAEA the "teeth" that it needs to make its global role meaningful. Yet it is through the IAEA or a similar international agency alone that the world community can hope to achieve results, not through strong-arm tactics that are at best controversial, at worst counter-productive.

The risk of a delegate's nationality coming in the way of the UN's work was also illustrated in Iraq, where the inspectors' team was led by Karen Jansen, an American. Iraq has charged the UN mission as being biased in favor of its enemies. The crux however is that the UN and its agency simply do not enjoy the power that brings with it the veneer of impartiality.

The information void faced by the IAEA bedevilled its team in Baghdad as well. The agency still lacks crucial information on who gave Iraq technical advice for its centrifuge enrichment program. Baghdad is refusing to divulge anything, maintaining its position conforms to the principle of "respect for ethics, rules and norms of international trade." Are the major nuclear powers similarly ill-informed? This remains moot.

The scandalous inefficacy of an international agency as important as the IAEA is best encapsulated by its experience with the "full, final and complete" list of Iraqi nuclear activities concerned with the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction, submitted by Iraq in June.

The Arabic-language report is currently being translated, and the IAEA does not know what it contains. If Iraq has failed to furnish the information the agency seeks there's not a lot that the world community can do about it.

It is this ridiculous inanity of international law enforcement, which the UN supposedly represents, that must be tackled if nuclear risks are to be avoided. ■

Academic File

Sajid Rizvi is the managing editor of Academic File.

Refugees' exodus stalks both Asia and Europe

By Maryam Schiller

GENEVA — The seemingly intractable ethnic conflicts in Central Asia, following closely the civil war in Yugoslavia and uncertainty in the rest of eastern Europe, have exposed southern Asian countries to the same kind of dangers that have confronted Europe for more than a decade.

Europe's response in recent years has been to tighten controls and, in certain cases, close international borders between the troubled states and the wealthier states of the West. In Asia the problems are more complex and therefore harder to resolve.

While most of immigration to Europe in the past decade has involved people of diverse non-European cultures fleeing persecution or war in their native lands, the influx of refugees from central to southern Asia has consisted mostly of people of similar origins.

Turkey is in the forefront today as the receptacle of refugees of Turkish origin not only from Central Asia but also from eastern Europe. Pakistan and Iran have been sheltering several million Afghans, many of them with family bonds in their host country, throughout the 12-year period following the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

While thousands of Afghans are now returning to their native land from both Pakistan and Iran, fresh waves of refugees are directed towards Iran, and even Afghanistan, from Central Asia.

As a recent study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) indicated, migration is fast becoming a global issue with only the western states well prepared to deal with it. Not only has the migration of large numbers of people from one part of the world to another accelerated since 1990, it is also becoming more and more regionalized.

Although the OECD differentiates between permanent migrants and asylum-seekers, the difference seems unrealistic since most people who seek asylum eventually want to settle down and start new lives in their host countries.

The numbers involved in the exodus from Central Asia are far from established, but the essence of the global trend of which it is part is captured by the European experience.

For the tens of thousands of people waiting to seek shelter in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, these countries still represent "lands of opportunity," opportunity which is judged to be greater than that available in their native lands.

In other words, the problem is about as serious as what Europe in recent years has described as the influx of "economic migrants." This has been further compounded by claims of racial identity, similar to those faced by west European countries.

The new Europe, for instance, has seen waves of Poles, former Soviet nationals, Hungarians and Romanians with German roots claiming German citizenship. Pontics and Albanians of Greek ancestry have inundated Greece with similar claims of citizenship, and east Europeans of various nationalities are clamoring at the doors of Turkey for the right to be issued a Turkish passport. Turkey's problem is by far the most complex, since tens of millions of people in Europe and Asia can claim Turkish ancestry.

A further impact on the demographic patterns south of Central Asia is being made apparently by migration facilitated by the free flow of people in the European Community.

There are strong fears that if and when the European free-trade area becomes a reality on 1 June, 1993, nationals of non-EC countries may face further pressures in jobs, with many of them returning home to their countries of origin in Asia and thus adding to the burden there.

Ironically, most of the new migrants to Asia are unskilled people or people duplicating skills already available, while the migrants from Asia to the West increasingly have comprised the categories of highly skilled or skilled.

Most of the Asian and Middle Eastern migrants to the United States and Canada, for example, are highly educated people whose arrival has been welcomed.

The US Immigration Act of 1990 provided for a three-fold increase in the number of visas granted to skilled workers, 140,000 visas a year against a previous 54,000. It also offered unprecedented guarantees of equal opportunities for immigrants.

The outlook then is for an economically strapped southern Asia and Near East increasingly having to cope with greater numbers of migrants from contiguous areas.

Would the region find this influx economically beneficial, as have the United States and some parts of Europe, or would it see it as an unwelcome burden? Before the new arrivals can fit into the new societies, there is little doubt that they will prove to be a significant drain on the resources of their hosts. ■

Academic File

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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Osama El-Sherif

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Après son voyage en Israël

Baker rassure la Jordanie

Le Secrétaire d'Etat américain qui devait être porteur d'idées "israéliennes" a réaffirmé les grands principes de Madrid devant le roi Hussein. Manière de préciser que ce voyage n'a pas que des fins électoralistes, au moment où Bush baisse dans les sondages

"NOUS SOMMES tous des enfants d'Abraham" a lancé mardi le roi Hussein lors de sa conférence de presse commune avec le Secrétaire d'Etat américain, James Baker. L'atmosphère détendue, les sourires quasiment immuables des deux interlocuteurs reflètent l'état des relations entre les USA et la Jordanie. C'est aussi la preuve, selon les termes du roi Hussein, que la région traverse "un moment crucial et historique pour finalement progresser et apporter une fin aux souffrances pour toutes les parties alors divisées, Palestiniens, Israéliens, Jordanais et Arabes."

Le Secrétaire d'Etat américain, qui a été appelé "mon cher ami", devait imposer les nouvelles vues israéliennes, recueillies lors d'un voyage de deux jours à Jérusalem. Une ville épicée de la campagne électorale de Bush, selon certains commentateurs. La presse jordanienne présentait déjà les Arabes en victimes de ce voyage dont leur intérêt propre eût été le tout dernier objectif. Pourtant, le Secrétaire d'Etat n'a pas déçu le souverain hachémite.

Désaccord Baker-Rabin

James Baker a même créé la surprise en rassurant les jordanais sur un certain nombre de points toujours communs. "Notre politique n'a pas changé", a affirmé le Secrétaire d'Etat, nous avançons rapidement sur la base des termes de référence définis à Madrid, nous voyons une solution sur la base des résolutions 242 et 338 (traité de tous les Territoires occupés par Israël depuis 1967). Zaid Ben Shakir, n'avait-il pas déclaré, deux jours auparavant que son pays réaffirmait son engagement à une solution pacifique du conflit arabo-israélien, dans le cadre d'un règlement global qui garantisse le droit israélien total des territoires occupés, y compris le secteur arabe de Jérusalem?

James Baker, "porteur d'idées israéliennes", toujours selon le Premier ministre jordanien, a nettement marqué son désaccord avec Yitzhak Rabin. Deuxième agréable surprise. "Une implantation est une implantation", a déclaré James Baker qui ne fait aucune différence à l'instar de

Rabin, entre "implantations politiques" et "implantations stratégiques". Le Secrétaire d'Etat américain a même ajouté qu'elles représentaient toutes "des obstacles à la paix". Ces propos peuvent être calqués sur la déclaration de la veille à Jérusalem d'Hannan Ashrawi, porte-parole de la délégation palestinienne, selon laquelle "les implantations et le processus de paix sont incompatibles". Le Secrétaire d'Etat américain s'est longuement étendu sur cette question épineuse, précisant que "les installations de sécurité sont quelque chose que nous ne voyons pas comme des implantations". James Baker s'est appuyé sur la résolution 242 des Nations Unies, qui selon lui, "prend en considération la sécurité israélienne".

En revanche, James Baker n'a pas été en mesure de donner des garanties sur l'arrêt total des implantations dans les Territoires occupés. Une des revendications principales de la délégation palestinienne et du bureau de l'OLP réuni cette semaine à Tunis. "Je ne peux pas répondre à cette question aujourd'hui", a-t-il répondu lors de la conférence de presse. Mais ce dossier sera sans nul doute abordé lors de la prochaine visite, prévue au mois d'août, d'Yitzhak Rabin au Palais Royal. Un voyage qui pourrait marquer l'octroi des garanties de

prêts (10 milliards de dollars) à Israël pour l'absorption des immigrants juifs soviétiques. "J'espère qu'ils (NDR: Bush et Rabin) vont trouver le moyen d'obtenir un accord, qu'ils auront des discussions productives sur le sujet", a affirmé James Baker. Pour le moment, a précisé le Secrétaire d'Etat américain, aucun accord sur l'octroi à Israël de ces prêts garantis n'a été conclu.

Rome ou Washington?

Par ailleurs, James Baker a évoqué le boycott arabe, estimant que "c'est une question qui mérite d'être prise en considération". Et d'ajouter: "Nous avions



James Baker et le roi Hussein au Palais Royal

proposé sa suspension en échange d'un gel des implanta-

l'application des résolutions 242 et 338, doivent théoriquement se

tenir à Rome au début du mois d'août. Mais Hanane Ashrawi a créé la confusion en affirmant que ce round pourrait se tenir à Washington. "Si les parties le décident, nous serons ravis de les recevoir", a déclaré James Baker sans donner plus de précisions. Les négociations bilatérales "reprennent bientôt", s'est contenté de dire le Secrétaire d'Etat américain. Avant d'affirmer qu'il soutenait la "proposition de M. Rabin pour que ces négociations soient relativement continues, plutôt qu'interrompues".

Le Secrétaire d'Etat américain a quitté Amman mardi soir pour se rendre à Damas, troisième étape de sa tournée au Proche

Francis Mazoyer



Yémen

La Jordanie vole au secours des réfugiés somaliens

Une organisation humanitaire jordanienne (JHCO), les pouvoirs publics et des partenaires privés prennent l'initiative d'aider les populations touchées par les guerres, les famines ou les catastrophes naturelles dans le monde entier. Cible: les 50.000 réfugiés somaliens du Yémen

UN AVION de l'armée de l'air jordanienne décolle d'Amman, samedi après-midi. Opération de secours. Loin s'en fuit. Dans ses soutes, seize tonnes de médicaments et de nourriture destinées aux trop nombreux Somaliens réfugiés au Yémen. Trois personnes dont un médecin accompagnent cette aide d'urgence et sont chargés de veiller à sa distribution.

Une équipe de la télévision jordanienne fait également partie du voyage. Elle nous rapportera des témoignages de la tragédie que vivent ces réfugiés. Ces quelques 50.000 yéménites qui font leur pays ravagé par la guerre civile et la famine depuis la chute du dictateur Sind Barré en janvier 1991.

Opération Somalie

En 17 mois, les réfugiés se sont entassés dans des camps ou des bidonvilles, comme Bassajou, tout près d'Aidon. La semaine dernière, le Gob Wein, navire philippin chargé de 3.400 réfugiés s'est vu refuser le droit d'accoster par le gouverneur d'Aidon. Résultat: des scènes de panique, des morts en série. L'aidé jordanienne aux réfugiés s'ajoute aux actions sur le terrain du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Réfugiés (HCR), et à l'assistance médicale de l'association française, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Depuis quelque temps, les autorités jordanaises prévoyant de voler au secours des Somaliens.

Mais impossible d'écarter quoi que ce soit d'urgence vers la Somalie. La guerre civile fait rage et la distribution d'une éventuelle assistance est plus qu'aléatoire. Pourtant, il a suffi que le roi Hussein et le prince héritier Hassan insistent sur l'urgence de la situation.

Mission accomplie: la Jordanie se mobilise pour lutter contre la famine. Le Ministère de la Santé et des Industries pharmaceutiques jordanien ont réuni des médicaments. La Jordanian Hachemite Charitable Organisation (JHCO) est encore une fois sur le pied de guerre. Pendant un mois, elle a diffusé dans la presse et à la télévision des images malheureusement banales d'enfants sous-alimentés en train d'agoniser; d'adultes de tous âges n'ayant plus d'autre espoir que celui d'en finir une fois pour toutes. Avec pour tout commentaire une simple annonce de l'envoi d'une aide matérielle aux Somaliens et le numéro de téléphone de la JHCO.

Mobilisation jordanienne. Les viles, les jordanais réagissent à ce sombre appel au secours. Les coups de téléphone se



Le roi Hussein venu inspecter le départ de la mission jordanienne

multiplient au bureau de la JHCO. Les dons affluent, d'importance et de nature différentes: "Quelques dinars pour les uns, de plus fortes sommes pour d'autres, mais aussi des colis de nourriture et de médicaments" confie le Docteur Abdel Salam Al Abbadi, secrétaire général de la JHCO.

L'aide jordanienne est conforme aux besoins des réfugiés somaliens. Ces derniers manquent essentiellement de produits alimentaires (lait en poudre pour enfants en bas-âge, riz, huile, sucre) et de médicaments pour enrayer les épidémies qui les foudroient. La mobilisation et la solidarité des Jordanais font une fois encore des miracles.

S.O.S.

La concrétisation de quelques semaines d'efforts: cet avion qui s'envole vers Aden chargé d'aide matérielle et d'espoir. Le roi Hussein en personne était au rendez-vous, confirmant par sa présence son engagement et son soutien inconditionnels à l'action humanitaire jordanienne.

La JHCO est supervisée par un Conseil lui-même dirigé par le Prince héritier Hassan en personne. Un Comité exécutif composé de 11 membres venant d'univers différents décide des actions à entreprendre. L'organisation n'en est pas à sa première opération du genre. De 1985 à 1990, elle s'est engagée dans un programme d'aide et de développement dans l'ouest du

Soudan, région particulièrement touchée par la sécheresse et la famine. "La Jordanie compte un nombre élevé de personnel qualifié. C'est un grand avantage pour notre pays. Pourquoi ne pas en faire profiter d'autres États qui n'ont pas la même chance?" s'exclame le Docteur Al Abbadi. Au Soudan, des équipes médicales ont été envoyées tous les deux mois, pendant toute la durée du programme. Objectif: faire fonctionner un hôpital dans de bonnes conditions. Un système de distribution d'eau a également été mis en place dans la même région. L'année dernière, la JHCO a envoyé du matériel de secours (couvertures, nourriture et équipement divers) au Bangladesh après les tragiques inondations qui ont frappé le pays. La République Chinoise a également bénéficié de l'aide de la JHCO.

Prochaine "mission": La Bosnie-Herzégovine. Le roi Hussein lui-même a annoncé l'envoi d'une assistance de caractère essentiellement médical à cette région minée par la guerre civile. Les quelques étudiants jordanais qui se trouvent actuellement dans cette région à haut risque pourraient même, s'ils le souhaitent, revenir en Jordanie dans l'avion qui servira à l'acheminement de cette aide. Mais cette aide reste conditionnelle au maintien du pont aérien, qui semble précaire compte tenu de la violence des combats de cette semaine.

La JHCO n'a pas de fonction

interne directe. Quand un pays ou une organisation internationale accorde une aide à la Jordanie, son rôle consiste à coordonner les opérations. Elle sert généralement d'intermédiaire entre la source et le ministère dont dépend le secteur concerné par cette aide.

Malgré les multiples difficultés rencontrées par la population jordanienne, celle-ci fait toujours montre d'une générosité remarquable. "Au début de la crise du Golfe, des milliers et des milliers de réfugiés ont afflué en Jordanie. Même les Jordanais qui n'avaient pas assez de nourriture pour leur propre famille ont voulu partager avec eux", rappelle le docteur Al Abbadi. "La Jordanie avec ses moyens limités, se doit d'aider les autres. On peut toujours trouver plus malheureux que nous". Il conclut: "Dans le cas de la Somalie, nous voulons montrer l'exemple aux pays riches".

Un appel à la solidarité qui sera, espérons-le, entendu par ceux que le secrétaire général de la vaillante "Jordanian Hachemite Charitable Organisation" mène du doigt. Pour qu'ils se sentent à leur tour concernés. ■

Miladèle Rieux.

The Star
Téléphone 648298

L'EDITO

De Amine Chablout

Paix relancée?

L'ARRIVEE DE Rabin au pouvoir promet de relancer le processus de paix au Moyen-Orient. Illustration parfaite: la tournée entamée par James Baker, Secrétaire d'Etat américain dans la région. La première étape se déroulait en Israël où le parti travailliste a récemment remporté les élections, sur fond de promesses de règlement pacifique et d'engagement à ne plus traîner le pas à l'instar de Shamir.

Rabin s'attend à ce que les Américains lui renvoient l'ascenseur. Débloquer les 10 milliards de dollars de prêts garantis pour absorber les immigrants juifs soviétiques servira Rabin qui doit à ces derniers son succès électoral. Cette mesure possible fera aussi le jeu de Bush dont la cote de popularité a été en partie entamée. Un président américain qui finira certainement par accorder ces prêts tant controversés à Israël avant son dernier round électoral contre son rival Clinton. Evidemment, la crainte des Arabes est motivée par cette couche de politique intérieure qui entache la tournée de Baker.

Autre élément à noter dans ce contexte: la visite de Rabin au Caire, première capitale sur son carnet de voyages, huit jours exactement après son accession au pouvoir. Visite qui promet aux yeux de certains de constituer un gage de bonne volonté et de bonne foi de la part du chef travailliste, qui n'a pas omis il y a une semaine d'inviter les chefs d'Etats arabes à se rendre à la Knesset. Et de se faire inviter lui-même chez les Amos.

Il n'a réalisé à cet égard qu'une partie de son projet. Mais dans un pays lié au sien par les accords de Camp David. Aucune réaction directe, en revanche, de la part des voisins d'Israël. Néanmoins, cette première visite est peut-être un premier pas sur la voie de l'établissement d'un climat de confiance. Reste à savoir quels seront les résultats de la tournée du chef de la diplomatie américaine au M.O.

Faisant escale à Amman pour quelques heures, James Baker n'a pas manqué, en réponse à une question de Salameh Ne'mati (Al Hayat) de rappeler que les résolutions 242 et 338 faisaient toujours partie de l'évangile selon les Américains. Aussi, qu'ils n'avaient pas oublié les Palestiniens, lors d'un voyage qui semblait destiné à encourager les initiatives de paix israéliennes.

Haider Abdel Shafi, Faygal Hussein et Hanane Ashrawi ont rencontré James Baker à Jérusalem et ont souligné l'importance de sa tournée. Puisqu'ils sont partie prenante dans ce conflit, les Américains ne peuvent pas non plus les décevoir. ■

During the day, the group visited various natural and archaeological sites and a few of the Hamza oil fields, accompanied by the geologist Mohammad Dakhl-Alla. They also visited the Azraq lakes, the Shomari Reserve and the desert castles.

RACJ at the 8th circle, Wadi Saqr. The race will be held on Friday 31 July and the starting point will be at the RACJ.

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Establishing the orchestras and their participation in the Jerash Festival this year marked a turning point in the life of the Conservatory, adding a new dimension to its policy and philosophy. It reflected a qualitative move towards establishing music ensembles and orchestras in Jordan.

Just following a few simple rules can keep your caloric count in check and help you keep losing extra kilos.

According to Ms. Nasar, the Conservatory's biggest dream is to gather enough enthusiastic, dedicated individuals to form a large group of Jordanian musicians. They, she hopes, will be able to support, promote and back activities, responding to the needs and problems of Jordanian musical life.

helps remove the chemicals that accumulate in your muscles while you walk.

LEMON:
Steep the peel of 2 lemons in the milk and cream; remove before adding yolk mixture.

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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
25 July -
31 July

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers.
9:00 — Encenunier.
9:30 — Saturday Variety Show.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Feature Film: "Johnny Irlunda." Starring Dennis Quaid. The story of a deaf young girl who kills the man who raped her.

SUNDAY

12:25 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 4:00.
8:30 — Wings.
8:55 — Olympics: Gymnastics.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 1:30.

MONDAY

12:00 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 6:30.
8:30 — Close to Home.
9:10 — A Perfect Hero.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Strauss Family.
11:00 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 1:30.

TUESDAY

12:00 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 4:15.
8:30 — Acropolis Now.
9:00 — Mr. Bean.
9:30 — Tex.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Special Olympics.
11:00 — Oscar Feature Film: "The Happy Ending." Starring John Forsythe. About a woman who cannot achieve happiness after 15 years of marriage.

WEDNESDAY

12:00 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 6:00.
8:30 — Olympics: Swimming Finals.
9:15 — Wednesday Forum.
10:00 — News in English.

10:20 — Olympics: Judo Finals.
11:00 — In a Child's Name. The true story of Teresa.
12:00 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 1:30.

THURSDAY

12:00 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 4:00.
8:30 — The Simpsons.
9:10 — Civil Wars: The investigations of a compassionate police commissioner, Seali.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 1:30.

FRIDAY

12:00 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 5:00.
8:30 — Olympics: Swimming.
9:30 — Golden Girls.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Olympics Live: Gymnastics.
11:00 — Thatcher: Political Drama.
12:00 — Special Olympics Broadcast until 1:30.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Petites Histories.
6:30 — Les Tortues Ninja.
6:30 — La Gymnastique.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fenetre Sur.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vallant.
5:45 — Des Chiffres et des Lettres.
6:10 — La Chaine Aux Chommes. A variety program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine. E-M6. A sci-



The star cast of the mini series "Perfect Hero" Monday 9:10

entific magazine

LUNDI

6:00 — Au Caire de Lune.
6:10 — Le monde sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The weekly sports magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Les Aventures de Joe.
6:10 — Documentaire.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Le lieu des moments du Cirque.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le Monde est à Vous.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Documentaire: Azimut.

JEUDI

6:00 — Circus Portenolres.
6:30 — Maguy.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varietes.

VENREDI

5:30 — Geoscope.
5:55 — Les Cies de Fort Boyard.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions.

TOP ENTERTAINMENT HITS

TOP POP SINGLES

1. Baby Got Back, Sir Mix-A-Lot, Reprise
2. I'll Be There, Mariah Carey, Columbia
3. Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover, Sophie B. Hawkins, Columbia
4. Jump, Kiss Kiss, Columbia
5. Under the Bridge, Roddy Dean, Warner Bros.
6. If You Asked Me To, Collie Dixon, EPIC
7. My Lovin', En Vogue, ATCO
8. Tennessee, Arrested Development, Chrysalis
9. The Best Things in Life are Free, Luther Vandross and Janet Jackson, A&M
10. Wishing on a Star, The Cover Girls, Epic

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Father of the Bride, Steve Martin, Touchstone Home Video
2. JFK, Kevin Costner, Warner Home Video (PG-1991)
3. My Girl, Macaulay Culkin, Anna Chlumsky, Columbia TriStar Home Video (PG-1991)
4. Capa Fear, Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
5. Frankie and Johnny, Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)
6. The Fisher King, Robin Williams, Jeff Bridges, Columbia TriStar Home Video (R-1991)
7. The Butcher's Wife, Demi Moore, Jeff Daniels, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)
8. The Last Boy Scout, Bruce Willis, Damon Wayans, Warner Home Video (R-1991)
9. For the Boys, Bette Midler, James Caan, Fox Video (R-1991)
10. Freejack, Emilio Estevez, Mick Jagger, Warner Home Video (R-1991)



Al Pacino in "Frankie and Johnny"

Home Video (R-1991)

HOME MOVIES

"Hook" (Columbia/TriStar) Director Steven Spielberg's update of the "Peter Pan" legend supplies high adventure for all ages, as well as solid performances. Robin Williams plays the grown Peter, who's shaken out of his adult life by a new threat from eternal enemy Captain Hook (Dustin Hoffman); Julia Roberts plays the fairy Tinkerbell, and Bob Hoskins and Maggie Smith also are featured. *** (PG-P, V)

COMING SOON: "Juke" Spike Lee's cinematographer Ernest Dickerson directed this controversial drama about urban friends who find a gun. (R)

RATINGS:
★ - don't bother, ★★ - not bad
★★★ - worth seeing, ★★★★ - excellent.

"Rush" (MGM/UA) Kim Wozner's best-selling book inspired first-time director Lili Fini Zanuck's effectively raw melodrama about two undercover narcotics officers (well-played by Jason Patric and Jennifer Jason Leigh) who become personally involved... and also drawn deeply into the vice they're supposed to stop. Sam Elliott co-stars, and the fine music soundtrack is by Eric Clapton. *** (R:AS, P, V)



Julia Roberts plays Tinkerbell, the little fairy in "Hook"

"Until the End of the World" (Warner) A decidedly unusual mix of science-fiction and theology, veteran filmmaker Kim (Wings of Desire) Wenders' ambitious drama casts William Hurt as a man on the run... though the possible collision of a satellite with the planet Earth might stop his flight for good. Solveig Dommertin and Jeanne Moreau also appear; music by U2 and k.d. lang is included. ** (R:AS, P, V)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY:
P - profanity; V - violence; GV - particularly graphic violence; AS - adult situations.

HOROSCOPE

★★★★★★★★★

ARIES (21 March - 19 April): The first of the week you have to be careful. By Wednesday, your life will start to get easier.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): This is one of those good news-bad news weeks. Take it in stride. Be patient.

GEMINI (21 May - 21 June): The first of the week should be fun for you, but the end will be much better.

CANCER (22 June - 22 July): It's time to let go. Although you've provided a safe nest for your loved ones, they're going to start flying away.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Don't run right out and buy that toy you've been dreaming about. Money's still tight.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Schedule your toughest jobs for Wednesday, and then try to get them done early.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): The urge to say what you really feel will be strong. Don't do it. The whole atmosphere is going to become more casual.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): You'll be able to slow it down a little, but there's a change in the air.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Resist the urge to make a break. The details of your job might be frustrating.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Your position is becoming vulnerable. By the end of this week you may have to admit it's time to try something different.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): There's still some opposition to one of your favorite schemes, but it's starting to fade. Romance will get easier.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): There's a transition in effect, from passive to active. Confusion may be the result, but you should calm down a lot.

IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK: The challenge will be juggling home and family against the urge to be creative. You'll have to learn discipline. Conserve your resources. You will really have to count the fish, but a marvelous invention could result. A log-jam will clear.

The Star TEL: 648 - 298

Would You Believe.....

The famed composer, Handel, had to learn to play the piano in secret because his father hated music. He covered the strings of his spinet with cloth and played in the attic.

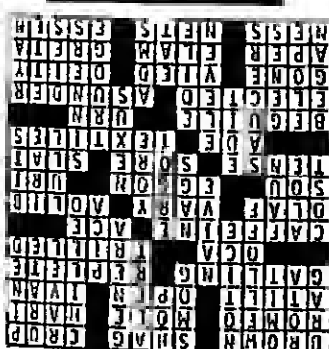
Olympic gold medals aren't all gold. They are mostly silver coated with six grams of fine gold.

A physical ailment is said to have contributed to Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo — hemorrhoids — which prevented him from surveying the battlefield on horseback.

Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, has the shortest day. It takes only nine hours and 50 minutes to make a complete rotation on its axis.

British sailors are called limes in tribute to the discovery by a British naval surgeon that fresh limes cured the scurvy, so rampant among sailing crews.

Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

By Gbassan Ghanem

A rare bird

THE CHANCES to get a top in a pairs event are not so many, sometimes, you have to wait for your opponents to go wrong, they may go overboard, rarely under bid and usually they just commit mistakes like you and I.

Other times you have to seize your chance for a top during the bidding and make the best out of it, if you don't utilize it, you go back to square one for an average score or even worse.

Sitting North facing Mr. S. who opened 1♠ followed by a pass by my R.H.O.* I held the following cards:

♠ K 10 7 5 ♥ K 5 ♦ J ♣ K Q J 10 9 7
I made the normal 1♠ response and to my surprise, my L.H.O. bid 2♠!

My partner passed, my R.H.O. passed, and the bidding reached me. I checked the vulnerability again, they were vulnerable we were not! What a situation! I paused to consider my options:

• We have a game for sure and definitely it is 3N and it would score something like 400, 430 or 460.
• Doubling would produce a huge score, but the double in this situation is 100% competitive and my partner would take it out either to 2♠, 2♥ or 2♣ which means that I could be losing a chance for a good score.

• 3♠ is out of question because it's not a good description for my hand, though it is a forcing bid.

• What about a pass? To produce a good score with the game almost guaranteed we need five down at least! That means the declarer should not be allowed to make more than three tricks.

But in view of my club holding, if the opponents can produce more than three tricks then our 3N game is not a sure one.

Let me consider all the matters again together:

• The opponents are vulnerable and we are not.
• My L.H.O. is coming into the bidding with a very weak suit.

• We can make a game and we need five down to produce a good score.

• One only thing was puzzling me: Why didn't my partner double? He should be short in clubs but not void, probably a singleton, he doesn't hold more than five hearts or three spades otherwise he would have bid them, he doesn't hold five diamonds, also, accordingly his hand is 3-5-4-1; a good distribution to defend with my club holding.

The full hand was:

♠ K 10 7 5 ♥ K 5 ♦ J ♣ K Q J 10 9 7
N E
S W
♠ A 8 6 ♥ 9 6 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ A 5 4 3 2

♠ Q 4 2 ♥ 10 8 7 3 ♦ 7 6 4 3 2 ♠ 6

♠ J 9 3 ♥ A Q J 4 2 ♠ K Q 10 5 ♠ 8

Five off, an absolute top! Points to remember:

- Never intervene with a weak suit.
- Consider your options during bidding before making a decisive bid.
- Try to analyze partner's hand during bidding.
- Consider the defense plan according to the number of tricks you need.
- Seize your chances on the table.
- R.H.O.: Right hand opponent
- L.H.O.: Left hand opponent.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Well, there he goes again... I suppose I shouldn't worry, but I just get a bad feeling about Jimmy hanging with those tune punks."



"Sure, I'll draw, mister — but first you gotta say the magic word. ... Didn't your mother ever teach you the magic word?"